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**U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
POLLUTION REPORT**

EPA Region 5 Records Ctr.



272622

I. HEADING

Date: October 30, 1995

Subject: American Plating Chicago, Cook County, Illinois.

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POLREP # 2

II. BACKGROUND

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|---|---------------------------------------|
| Site No: VF | Delivery Order No: 5001-05-379 |
| CERCLIS No: N/A | ERMS No: N/A |
| Response Authority: CERCLA | NPL Status: Non-NPL |
| State Notification: IEPA | Start Date: 10/16/95 |
| Demobilization Date: N/A | Completion Date: N/A |
| Status of Action Memorandum: Approved on September 26, 1995. | |

III. SITE DESCRIPTION

A. Incident Category: CERCLA

B. Site Location: 1820 West Lake Street
Chicago, Cook County, Illinois

1. **Site description:** The American Plating site is an inactive and abandoned electroplating facility located at 1820 West Lake Street in Chicago, Cook County, Illinois. The site is situated in a mixed residential and commercial surrounding. The Henry Horner housing projects are located to the south across Lake Street. The site comprises of 6 large rooms and occupies approximately 0.5 acres. The coordinates for the site are latitude 41°53'8" North and longitude 87°40'18" West. The building is severely deteriorated and has a weak structural integrity with collapsed roofs at several locations. Entrance doors to the site are missing at several locations and free access to the site exists. The site area is frequented by vagrants and a lot of

"drug" paraphernalia is visible throughout the building.

2. **Description of threat:** Ecology & Environment, Inc. (E & E), the U.S. EPA Technical Assistance Team (TAT) contractor, conducted a site assessment in August 1995 and found chromic acid (pH 1.58 units) in 1 vat, a 0.48 pH acid in a drum labelled "sulfuric acid", a spilled drum containing 54,000 mg/kg chromium (TCLP chromium 608 mg/L), and a pit containing TCLP lead concentration of 5.2 mg/L. The open vats with hazardous contaminants, and several drums and pits with hazardous contaminants posed a threat to human health and the environment.

There have been at least 2 fires inside the building. The most recent fire occurred over the week of October 14, 1995. There were also two stolen/stripped vehicles inside the building since the site walk through October 3, 1995.

- C. **Preliminary Assessment/Site Inspection Results** The American Plating site has not been previously evaluated under the Preliminary Assessment/Site Inspection investigative phases.

The site was brought to U.S. EPA's attention by the Chicago Department of Environment (CDOE), who investigated the site and found hazardous contaminants.

IV. **RESPONSE INFORMATION**

A. **Situation**

1. **Current situation:** Weather conditions: High temperatures in high 50s to low 60s. Mostly cloudy with rain today. Rain is hampering work as crew deals with slippery surfaces and muddy ground. Working hour site security necessary due to high crime area where site is located.
2. **Removal activities to date:** U.S. EPA initiated a removal action on October 16, 1995 by mobilizing the Emergency Response Cleanup Services (ERCS) contractor Smith Environmental and the TAT contractor E & E. Due to past vandalism and trespass at the site and the high crime neighborhood, armed security guards were hired to provide site security. The site building is screened daily with the help of the security guards. A Bobcat unloader, a storage trailer, and a mobile office trailer were mobilized to site.

During the week, consolidated liquids from Vats #1 and #3 into Vat #2. Decontaminated/cleaned Vat #4, placing caustic material into poly drums. Also, cleaned out Vats #1 and #3 and removed debris and rinsed out vats.

Sampled vats, walls, floors, debris, and pit in Rooms #2 and #4 for waste characteristics (TCLP RCRA metals and cyanide) and disposal analysis. Consolidated contents of phosphoric acid drums into Vat #5. TAT tracked down information regarding Dion Polymer Products drum contents are a polyester resin in a solvent base. Made emergency exit (i.e., doorway in wall) from Room #3. Began clearing and removing non-hazardous debris and caustic material from Room #3. Staged hazardous material on plastic sheeting in Room #5. Sample results indicate that wall composite sample from Room #4 is hazardous for TCLP chromium and total cyanide. Other samples were non hazardous (i.e., Pit #1, Vats #1 - #3, Debris Room #2, Wall Room #2, and Floor Room #4). Performed lab pack of 4 waste containers for waste flammable liquids. Removed debris from Pit #1. CDOE onsite to observe site activities and meet with OSC.

3. **Enforcement:** A title search is in the process of being completed. The OSC has talked to the past owner/operator concerning site activities and access. 104(e) Notification Letters will be sent to all of the known site Potentially Responsible Parties (PRPs).

B. Planned Removal Actions

Sample all site waste streams and arrange for waste disposal. Clear and sweep all areas. Remove and consolidate all waste materials in drums, vats, pits, walls, and floors. Decontaminate necessary portions of the building.

C. Next Steps

Remove debris out of vats, pits, and off the floor. Clean out all vats and dispose of liquid/sludge and hazardous pit soils. Continue to clear the debris in Room #3 to gain access to buried vats. Sample vats in Room #3 and dispose appropriately. Decontaminate appropriate portions of the site.

D. Key Issues

None

V. COSTS

Extramural Costs:

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| Total Cleanup Contractor (e.g, ERCS) Costs | |
| | \$ 74,470.57 |
| IAGs | \$ 0.00 |
| Cooperative Agreements/Letter Contracts | \$ 0.00 |
| TAT/START | \$ 2,625.00 |

| | |
|-------------------------|--------------|
| CLP | \$ 0.00 |
| REAC | \$ 0.00 |
| TOTAL, EXTRAMURAL COSTS | \$ 77,095.57 |

Intramural Costs:

| | |
|--------------------------------|-------------|
| Direct Costs (Region, HQ, ERT) | \$ 2,625.00 |
| Intramural Indirect Costs | \$ 3,816.00 |
| TOTAL, INTRAMURAL COSTS | \$ 6,441.00 |

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|--------------------------------------|----------------------------|
| <u>TOTAL SITE COST</u> | <u>\$ 84,536.57</u> |
| Project Ceiling | \$ 323,000.00 |
| Project Funds Remaining (percentage) | 26% |

The above accounting of expenditures is an estimate based on figures known to the OSC at the time this report was written. The OSC does not necessarily receive specific figures on final payments made to any contractor. Other financial data, which the OSC must rely upon, may not be entirely up to date. The cost accounting provided in this report does not necessarily represent an exact monetary figure which the government may include in any claim for cost recovery.

VI. DISPOSITION OF WASTES

| <u>Wastestream</u> | <u>Medium</u> | <u>Quantity</u> | <u>Containment</u> | <u>Treatment</u> | <u>Disposal</u> |
|--------------------|---------------|-----------------|--------------------|--------------------|-----------------|
| Non-haz debris | Solid | 80 cu.yds. | Roll-off box | Hegewisch Landfill | Landfill |